

## 1.01 PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

**PROJECT TITLE NAME:** The Prairie Waters Education and Research Center

**NAME AND ADDRESS, TELEPHONE AND E-MAIL OF LEAD PROJECT SPONSOR/  
SUBGRANTEE:**

Valley City State University  
101 SW College St  
Valley City, ND 58072  
701-845-7573  
andre.delorme@vcsu.edu

**STATE CONTACT PERSON:** Andre DeLorme **TITLE:** Center Director

**PHONE:** (701) 845-7573 **FAX:** 701-845-3450 **EMAIL:** andre.delorme@vcsu.edu

**STATE:** North Dakota **WATERSHED:** Statewide

**HYDROLOGIC UNIT CODE:** NA

**HIGH PRIORITY WATERSHED:(YES/NO):** NO

**TMDL UNDER DEVELOPMENT:** PENDING \_\_\_\_ **IMPLEMENTATION** \_\_\_\_

**PROJECT TYPES WATERBODY TYPES NPS CATEGORY**

<input type="checkbox"/> STAFFING & SUPPORT	<input type="checkbox"/> GROUNDWATER	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> WATERSHED	<input type="checkbox"/> LAKES/RESERVOIRS	<input type="checkbox"/> URBAN RUNOFF
<input type="checkbox"/> GROUNDWATER	<input type="checkbox"/> RIVERS	<input type="checkbox"/> SILVICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I&E	<input type="checkbox"/> STREAMS	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSTRUCTION
	<input type="checkbox"/> WETLANDS	<input type="checkbox"/> RESOURCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	EXTRACTION
		<input type="checkbox"/> STOWAGE/LAND
		DISPOSAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> HYDRO
		<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**PROJECT LOCATION:** STATEWIDE X **LATITUDE** \_\_\_\_ **MIN.** \_\_\_\_ **LONGITUDE** \_\_\_\_ **MIN.**

**SUMMARIZATION OF MAJOR GOALS:** The purpose of this proposal is to continue the funding of the highly successful Prairie Waters Education and Research Center. The Center is a statewide resource for water education, research, and management. This center has four main areas of focus: educational activities for students, teacher workshops, professional workshops, and research on aquatic biological resources. It has partnered with a variety of government agencies to enhance their programs as well as local schools to provide quality educational activities. This Center is based in a former school building, thus providing a physical presence for the Center.

**FY2015 319 Funds requested: \$190,000; Match \$126,667 ; Other Federal Funds \$0;  
319 Funded Fulltime Personnel: 1.46**

**Length of proposal: 1 year 5 months**

**Total Project Cost: \$316,667**

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

We aim to raise awareness of non point source (NPS) pollution through the activities of our Center dedicated to water education. In essence we are a learning center dedicated to water education that serves a wide variety of clientele including students, teachers, and resource personnel.

Prairie Waters is dedicated to collaboration working with agencies such as the North Dakota Department of Health, the State Water Commission, the North Dakota Game and Fish, the North Dakota Department of Parks and Recreation, and state Soil Conservation districts to produce a set of activities that cover a range of water issues in relation to NPS. This center works with currently established educational entities such as Project Wet, River Watch, and Envirothon to provide educational experiences about water issues to a wide range of clients. Activities related to the Center include

- Educational activities for school groups
  - Bringing in school groups to the Center for educational activities related to water and NPS pollution.
  - Doing outreach programs for schools and other educational entities.
  - Acting as a support center for the River Watch program in North Dakota.
- Provide workshops for teachers in water education.
- Provide a site for workshops for resource professionals.
- House a research lab that addresses water issues in North Dakota.

## **2.0 STATEMENT OF NEED**

**2.1** Non point source pollution is a problem that can have many negative effects on the state's water resources. It is important that the causes and effects of NPS pollution are well understood by citizens of our state. Knowledge of not only what NPS pollution is, but also how the amount of NPS pollution is affected by a wide variety of water issues ranging from flooding, to farming practices, to drought, to wetland drainage is important. Our Center examines these components of NPS pollution in a variety of ways. The Center gives K-12 students hands on activities that demonstrate many features of NPS pollution. An excellent example of this is the River Watch program for which the Center currently has eight participating schools. The program engages high school students in doing river chemistry monitoring on rivers and streams in North Dakota. We also make

an effort to partner with other entities in the state that focus on NPS to deliver quality education to both youth and professionals. The Center addresses both Objective 1 and 2 of the North Dakota NPS Management Program Plan. We deliver a balanced statewide program that addresses NPS issues and work with local resource managers to better understand the implications of NPS.

An important focus of all our activities with students will be active participation in their learning and, whenever possible, getting them outside and either next to, on, or in the water. Educational research has shown that these types of active learning experiences do a better job of engaging students and lead to a better understanding of scientific principles.

Another need this Center fulfills is to provide teachers the information and activities to help educate their students on water related issues. Even many high school science teachers with a strong Biology background have little formal training in water issues. Most elementary school teachers have very little science training at all. By providing teachers with workshops and having them participate in activities with their classes we facilitate teacher knowledge in water issues in general and NPS in particular.

The Center also acts as a place to bring resource professionals together for workshops and discussion related to NPS pollution. We have held workshops for NRCS and Soil Conservation District personnel on several NPS issues from Bio Assessment techniques to proper water quality sample collection.

While there may be some concern about overlap between the Center and the other NPS educational programs such as Project WET, Envirothon, and ECO Ed. camp; we see this as a synergistic relationship that has strengthened all programs. We held a joint summer workshop with Project WET where we brought over 30 teachers together for watershed information and training. We have become involved in the Envirothon program, helping to prepare and run the aquatics portion of the program. For the past four years we have helped with the Ransom County ECO Ed. program. In addition, last year we helped with the Cass County ECO Ed. and the Slope/Hettinger County ECO Ed. programs.

**2.2** The Center targets a wide audience with three main areas. The first, school groups, are an excellent audience for our Center because these students are the future of our state and instilling knowledge of water issues will produce a more concerned and informed group of citizens. The second area, teachers and educators, are also important targets for our Center. Elementary education teachers especially have little or no training in NPS pollution and water issues education. To put it bluntly, teachers are more likely to teach subjects that they are familiar with and understand themselves. Providing them with information and support will greatly increase awareness and also

lead to more classroom activities on water issues. The collaborations with other programs such as Project Wet, Envirothon, and River Watch will play a strong role in reaching both school groups and educators. Finally, working with resource personnel, farmers, and producers will allow us to provide a service to several state agencies and to North Dakota's agricultural businesses.

### 3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As stated earlier, the Center has four main areas of focus. A further description of those areas follows plus you can visit our website: <http://www.vcsu.edu/prairiewaters/>.

**Educational activities for school groups** – Our work with school groups has been mainly on site but we are expanding our outreach programs to accommodate schools who may not be able to travel to Prairie Waters. As can be seen in the table below, we have seen considerable growth in our four years of existence.

Year	Date of fiscal year	Total	Students	Teachers	Professionals
1	2011-2012 - July 1 -June 30	1441	1214	133	94
2	2012-2013 - July 1 to June 30	2421	1966	212	243
3	2013-2014 - July 1 to June 30	2496	2266	147	83
4*	2014 -July 1- September 26	789	735	46	8
	Totals	7147	6181	538	428

Table 1. Overview of participants in Prairie Waters activities by fiscal year. Note that year 4 is a partial year.

A variety of activities are done at the Center, others are hands-on field trips to any one of several aquatic resources in the near vicinity of the Center. Examples of some of the subjects covered in our activities are watersheds, aquatic macroinvertebrates, flooding, fish, biomonitoring, stream erosion, and wetlands studies to name a few.

One of the prime responsibilities of the Center is to act as the coordination center for River Watch. River Watch is a program that involves a team of high school students in river monitoring. The objectives of the program are as follows:

- Improved citizen awareness and understanding of watersheds and proper land and water stewardship practices.
- Sustainable citizen based, scientifically sound monitoring using standard methods, equipment, and training.
- Availability of useful, reliable, comparable water quality data for analysis, evaluation, and decision making.
- Sound resource management decisions based on quality data and informed discussion.

The students take water quality measurements in a river or stream in their area and are encouraged to examine how certain factors affect the water quality. This program does an excellent job of introducing students to water quality parameters and what they mean in relation to NPS pollution. We will provide training for the teacher and students at the Center and be available to visit the school as needed for trouble shooting and support services. In addition the Center will purchase the supplies needed for the monitoring and supply it to the schools. If a school decides to leave the program we can take back the equipment and provide it to another school. We also cover 60% of the schools cost for travel and substitute teachers, meaning the school is responsible for 40% of the cost. This ensures that schools have a commitment to the program. Current River Watch participating schools are: West Fargo, Mayville-Portland-Clifford-Galesburg, Hatton, Kensal, Montpelier, Berthold, Stanley, and Linton-Hazelton. One of the examples of success for this program has been our River Watch presentations at the 2012 and 2014 North Dakota Water Quality Monitoring Council Conference. We had several schools give power point presentations on their projects to a room full of resource professionals; feedback from both the students and the attendees to the conference has been overwhelmingly positive.

We also do summer work with kids. We run a couple of day camps that run three days each. One is for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders and is title “Splashin Around”. The other is a fishing camp for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. We also have done activities at the 4-H camp in Washburn the last two summers.

**Teacher training** – The Center provides workshops in water education for teachers. These include workshops for Project Wet and training for River Watch, but also will include other workshops. We will hold at least one River Watch symposium where teachers and their students will come and present their work. This workshop takes place during the school year, most likely in late Fall or early Spring.

We are also looking at developing pre-service workshops for students in our Science education programs and elementary education programs. We see the Center as being a very useful resource for area teachers.

**Professional workshops** – The site will provide an avenue for agencies to provide training related to water management issues. For instance, we have held a workshop on biomonitoring for Soil Conservation District (SCD) personnel and other resource professionals. This worked particularly well since the VCSU Macroinvertebrate Lab is the contract lab for the NDDH’s aquatic macroinvertebrate biomonitoring program. Other workshops included a daylong seminar titled “Water 101” which covered basic water quality information and a water quality sampling workshop for training professionals on how to properly take a water quality sample. We have had discussions

with the North Dakota Department of Health on establishing a certification process for water quality sampling. That would be an important component of this grant.

**VCSU Macroinvertebrate Lab Research** – This research lab focuses on aquatic biological resources and water quality in North Dakota. It is currently the identification lab for the NDDH's aquatic macroinvertebrate biomonitoring program and has had many contracts and grants related to North Dakota waters and water quality. In addition, the lab oversees two popular websites that focus on aquatic macroinvertebrates found in North Dakota waters ([www.waterbugkey.vcsu.edu](http://www.waterbugkey.vcsu.edu) and [www.ndfreshwaterinverts.vcsu.edu](http://www.ndfreshwaterinverts.vcsu.edu)) These sites were developed by a previous 319 grant and are a valuable resource for the Center. Much of the information, data, and even biological samples from these projects and future projects would be available for use by the other three areas of focus for the center. *This proposal does not include any direct funding for this component of the Center.* It is the responsibility of the Center Director to find research funds. In the past four years the Macroinvertebrate Lab has brought in approximately \$100,000 in grants and contracts from entities such as the North Dakota Department of Health, the North Dakota Game and Fish, and the Army Corp of Engineers. The fact that the Center and the Macroinvertebrate Lab have separate funding accounts set up with the VCSU Business Office ensures that funding will be separate.

This Center is a part of Valley City State University. The Center is housed at the former Kathryn School, an approximately 14,000 square foot facility. This building has a unique architecture which makes it very conducive to our everyday functions. It has four large rooms with an area of approximately 1800 sq. ft. each. We have turned two of the large rooms into classrooms for onsite educational activities. A third room has been converted to lab space for the VCSU Macroinvertebrate Lab. The fourth room is used primarily for storage. The building also has a large common area in the center of the building. We use this for displays and educational dioramas. We have developed educational displays on such topics as "What is Non-Point Source Pollution?", "Mussels of North Dakota Rivers", and "What is the Value of a Wetland?". Kathryn is located 17 miles south of Valley City in the beautiful Sheyenne River Valley and is within a 10 mile radius of a variety of aquatic resources including the Sheyenne River, Clausen Springs and Clausen Springs Dam, Little Yellowstone, and several large wetlands.

The Center has an advisory board to oversee its work and provide input for future directions. It will meet twice a year to review the work of the Center and offer suggestions for future improvement. A list of current board members is included in the Coordination Plan of this document, section 4.1.

**3.1 Goal.** The mission of the Prairie Water Education and Research Center is to provide a site dedicated to water education, research, and management in North

Dakota. In addition, there is currently much concern and emphasis on the quality of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education. This Center will take an active role in addressing those concerns. An important part of this mission is to have a broad reach across the state. Although we are based in southeast North Dakota we have made a commitment to provide our services across the state. We have added two northwestern schools, Stanley and Berthold, to the River watch program. We presented our “Water 101” workshop in Dickinson for NRCS, SCD, and other professionals in that area. We have presented several workshops in Fort Yates for teachers on the Standing Rock Reservation. We have presented at the Slope /Hettinger county ECO Ed. in Regent, ND. Plus we have schools come from as far away as Linton and Starkweather for our onsite activities.

**3.2 Objectives/Tasks:** Specific objectives and underlying tasks for the FY 2015 Prairie Waters Education and Research Center for the period of June, 2015 – October 31, 2016 are defined in this section.

**Objective 1. Staff, assess and monitor the success of the Center.**

Task 1. Staff the PWERC with a 46% time director, fulltime education specialist, and 75% time staff person. Dr. Andre DeLorme, Professor of Biology and Director of the VCSU Macroinvertebrate Lab at VCSU, is the Director of the Center. He will receive a summer salary for 2.5 months from 319 funds (21% of his time) and will have 25% release time in his VCSU contract for Prairie Waters. This 25% release will be an inkind match for the project. He will be responsible for all major Center decisions and grant writing. He is also in charge of the research component of the Center.

The Education Specialist/Presenter will be a full time position. This person will be responsible for designing and delivering educational activities for student groups, developing and implementing teacher workshops, developing displays for the commons area, and day to day activities at the Center. The salary will be 75% 319 funds and 25% VCSU funds. Inkind funds will be used to make up the balance of the 40% match.

The Lab Manager/Presenter will oversee the day to day activities of the research lab in the Center as well as help present activities to school groups. This is a full time position with 75% of its time devoted to Prairie Waters; 50% paid by 319 funds, 25% paid by VCSU. The remaining 25% of the time is devoted to research and contract work which will be paid by research grants and contracts.

Product: An effective staff of 2.21 FTE for the Center.

Estimated Cost: \$217,008 = \$144,383 – 319 funds; \$44,431 – VCSU funds; and \$28,194 - inkind salary match

Task 2. Advertise the Center to Educators and Schools throughout North Dakota. We will use pamphlets and other mailings along with a website to make educators aware of our facility

Product: Pamphlets and other promotional material plus postage. Travel to meetings.

Estimated Cost: \$500 – 319 funds

Task 3. Develop and administer assessment components. We will document all visitors to the Center to gauge the amount and type of usage the Center receives. In addition we will develop questionnaires and other assessment tools to for all workshops and educational activities.

Product: Questionnaires and documentation of usage.

Estimated Cost: \$330 – 319 funds

Task 4. Advisory board. The board will meet twice yearly to oversee the workings of the Center. Many of our board members can provide inkind match for travel and participation in meetings.

Product: Travel and meeting costs.

Estimated Cost: \$200 = \$0 319 funds; \$200 in kind match

## **Objective 2. Provide educational activities for school groups.**

Task 5. Run the River Watch Program in North Dakota. We will focus on maintaining the schools eight schools we have. We will provide funds to partially cover the costs of travel, supplies, and hiring substitute teachers at these schools.

Products: Funds for misc. supplies along with 60% of the costs for transportation and hiring of substitute teachers at our 8 participating schools.

Estimated Cost \$5,000 = \$3,000 - 319; \$2,000 In-kind match (school contribution to travel and substitute teachers)

Task 6. Provide onsite and outreach educational activities to North Dakota K-12 schools. Our goal is to have an annual average of 2500 students served.

Product: For onsite activities this includes cost for local transport to area aquatic resources, materials for use in activities, and cost of transporting students to the center. Costs also cover travel for outreach activities.

Estimated Cost: \$20,114 = \$16,114 - from 319; \$4,000 In-kind match (school costs for transportation of students to center)



Task 7. Produce educational materials and displays for use in the Center and for distribution to K-12 schools.

Product: Displays and aquariums in center Hall; and materials for posters, pamphlets and other print materials

Estimated Cost: \$400 - 319 funds;

**Objective 3. Provide Teacher training related to water issues.**

Task 8. Provide teacher training for River Watch

Product: An in depth workshop for River Watch teachers in the summer of 2015.

Estimated Cost: \$3,000 = \$2,000 in 319 funds; \$1,000 in kind match, (travel costs)

Task 9. Provide teacher workshops and training for Water education to pre-service and in-service teachers

Product: We will team the VCSU STEM education center to provide a summer workshop of K-12 teachers with a focus on water quality education. This workshop will take place in the summer of 2016.

Estimated Cost: \$3,000 – 319 funds

**Objective 4. Provide a site for Professional workshops.**

Task 10. Present workshops and training to Resource professionals.

Product: Workshops/training activities for a variety of resource professionals including soil conservation district and NRCS personnel. In the spring of 2015 we will hold a water quality sampling certification workshop. We will work with the NDDH and NRCS to identify workshop(s) for 2016.

Estimated Cost: \$2,000 – 319 funds

**Objective 5. House the VCSU Macroinvertebrate Research Lab.**

Task 11. Provide the space for the lab and integrate components of the research, specimens and data for example, into the educational mission of the Center.

Product: Integration of VCSU Macroinvertebrate Lab into the educational aspects of the Center.

Estimated Cost: \$0, The work of the research lab will be funded by outside sources, integration of specimens and data will be done as part of the workload of staff identified in Task 1.

**3.3** The milestone table below shows the timeline for the different tasks previously described. All objectives and tasks are the responsibility of the Prairie Waters.

Task/ <i>Responsible Organizations*</i>	Output	Quantity where applicable	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17
<b>Objective 1</b>					
Task 1 Staff the PWERC	Staff the Center	2.2 FTE			
Task 2 – Market the Center	Identify and notify potential users of the Center				
Task 3 Develop and Administer assessment	Gather assessment evaluation				
Task 4 Put together an advisory board that will meet twice a year	Create a working advisory board for the Center	8 – 10 people			
<b>Objective 2</b>					
Task 5 Supervise River Watch program	River Watch consortium in North Dakota	8 schools involved			
Task 6 Provide onsite and outreach educational activities	On site and outreach educational activities	2500 students			
Task 7 Develop displays and materials for use by the Center	Displays and materials about water education				
<b>Objective 3</b>					
Task 8 Provide teacher training for the River Watch program	Workshops for River Watch participants	8 teachers + possible new			
Task 9 Provide Teacher workshops/training for pre-service and in-service teachers	Improved teacher preparation in water education and NPS pollution	At least one each summer			
<b>Objective 4</b>					
Task 10 Provide Workshops for Resource Personnel	Workshops and/or training for Resource Personnel	At least one each year			
<b>Objective 5</b>					
Task 11 Integrate Research lab into educational aspects of Center	Materials and information for Center use	Continuing			

\*The Prairie Waters Education and Research Center is responsible for all tasks involved in the project

**3.4** Valley City State University is well positioned to sponsor this program. They have made a considerable investment in the Center. VCSU has spent nearly \$100,000 renovating the Kathryn school building to make it appropriate for our mission. They cover the costs of utilities which include electricity, heating costs, internet, and other utilities. In addition, they have agreed to provide a 25% match for the Education Specialist position and the Lab manager position.

Dr. Andre DeLorme is uniquely qualified to lead this project. Raised in North and South Dakota he has a natural affinity for Prairie ecosystems. Early in his career he worked as a naturalist for an Outdoor Environmental Education Center in New York state developing and presenting activities to elementary and middle school aged students. He then taught high school science for nine years, during which he spent several summers working as camp naturalist at different youth summer camps. This gives him insight into the workings of environmental education activities for youth and the needs and barriers faced by teachers in presenting environmental education activities. After obtaining his Ph.D he returned to North Dakota as a faculty member of Valley City State University and started the VCSU Macroinvertebrate Lab. This Lab has done a wide range of projects in North Dakota waters. The lab does macroinvertebrate identification contract work for the North Dakota Department of Health and other government agencies and has had a large National Institute of Health grant for the INBRE program in which they looked at heavy metals and atrazine concentrations and their effects in North Dakota rivers. In 2001 the lab performed Macroinvertebrate sampling for the Environmental Impact Statement for the federal proposed Devils Lake outlet. It also designed and implemented a website covering aquatic macroinvertebrates found in North Dakota waters (funded by a 319 grant), and completed a State Wildlife Grant to survey mussel species in North Dakota. The lab currently does Zebra Mussel sampling for the North Dakota Game and Fish and water quality sampling for the Army Corp of Engineers on Lake Ashtabula. In addition the lab houses the North Dakota Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Collection which is a valuable resource to the Center.

Bonita Roswick is our Education Specialist. She has a BS in Food Science from NDSU and later returned to school to obtain a secondary Biology teaching degree from Valley State University. She has worked as an Associate Chemist at Cargill and an Ag Statistics Enumerator for North Dakota Department of Agriculture. Bonita has been in her position a little over a year and has brought new and fresh ideas to the Center.

Louis Wieland is our Lab Manager. He has worked in Dr. DeLorme's Macroinvertebrate lab for the past 15 years and has a wide range of experience in sampling aquatic systems. He supervises the Macroinvertebrate samples the lab does for the NDDH and has been in almost every river in the State of North Dakota. He has a great presence with the kids and does an excellent job as a presenter and trouble shooter for the Center. Louis also manages our website content at <http://www.vcsu.edu/prairiewaters/>.

The lab provides many experiences for undergraduate students to do research and present their findings. Over the last fifteen years 18 undergraduate students have given over 28 different poster or talk presentations at regional and national conferences. In those fifteen years the lab has brought in over \$1 million in grants and contracts to VCSU.

#### **4.0 COORDINATION PLAN**

**4.1** Valley City State University will be the sponsoring organization for this project. Dr. Andre DeLorme, Associate Professor of Biology will be in charge of the project. Valley City State University will supply the lab equipment, much of the furniture and presentation equipment, the North Dakota Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Collection, and the website for this project.

We have a strong record of working with other entities in delivering NPS education. We have worked closely with the River Watch program in Minnesota to develop our program. We work well with Tina Harding of Project Wet, a program run by the State Water Commission, to coordinate and collaborate on such things as Envirothon, an annual water festival at Prairie Waters, and Project Wet Teacher workshops. We have worked with the North Dakota Department of Health on workshops and training for NRCS, Soil Conservation District, and other resource professionals.

As part of our coordination and assessment plan we have established an advisory board. The purpose of the board is two-fold; to oversee the Center and ensure it is run properly, and to involve representative groups in the activities of the Center. Below is a list of people who are board members and their agency or institution.

Natalie Boe – grade school teacher at Valley City Schools.

Marty Egeland – North Dakota Game and Fish Outreach specialist.

Jim Collins, North Dakota Department of Health; Water Quality Division.

Doug Dawes – Vice President of Business Affairs at Valley City State University.

Lori Frank, Barnes County Watershed Coordinator.

Mary Lee Neilson, City Commissioner for Valley City.

We have lost several members recently and anticipate adding several more people to the board.

**4.2** A major feature of this venture is the wide-ranging support of governmental, educational, and citizen groups. As an example of this interest, the North Dakota Game and Fish Outreach/Education has given the Center several small grants to summer

students working at the Center. We have worked with Lori Frank, Barnes County Watershed Director, to facilitate and advertise our workshops to SCD and NRCS personnel. In the spring of 2014 we received a grant from the North Dakota Resources Trust to integrate a Wetlands activity in our curriculum. Through this grant we are bringing in five high schools to learn about wetlands. They will make three visits, one in the fall, one in the winter, and one in the spring to see the seasonal differences in wetlands. We have been fortunate in that we were able to collaborate with Jennifer Jewett from the Fish and Wildlife Service to prepare and present this activity. These are all examples of the support we receive from other entities.

**4.3** The Center has a history of working with existing educational activities, several of which are currently supported by 319 funds. As stated earlier we have worked with Project Wet in presenting teacher workshops, running a water festival, and working together on the aquatic component for the Envirothon, another 319 supported program. We have worked with several county ECO Ed groups. Our education specialist, Bonita, is a member of the Coalition for Conservation and Environmental Education (C2E2). We also work with a variety of government agencies such as SCD's, the NRCS, the NDDH, the ND Game and Fish, and the National Fish and Wildlife Service to facilitate training and improve our educational activities.

As stated earlier in this proposal, our goal is not to replace these activities or entities listed above, it is to help strengthen them and act as an instrument to help increase their distribution.

These relationships and connections will be important as this program moves forward. We realize that 319 funds are getting scarce and so we tried to make our budget as lean as possible. We anticipate that we will need to generate a variety of small grants to help cover some of the supplies and equipment we will need to continue our program.

**4.4** The Center does not duplicate the activities of any other Center in the area. In fact we believe that there is no other Center in the state that has the focus we have with a building and location dedicated specifically to water issues education.

## **5.0 EVALUATION AND MONITORING PLAN**

**5.1** We use both formative and summative assessments as part of our evaluation process. Our formative assessments take place on an ongoing basis and allow us to gauge our success and make needed changes as we go. To accomplish this all clientele are given an opportunity to fill out comment forms and evaluation forms. We have forms for teachers, students and workshop participants to fill out. These forms are read by staff personnel, discussed, acted upon, and then summarized in a final report which becomes part of our summative assessment. Our summative assessment will take place once a year and will involve an overall examination of the Center. Each year

we prepare a report on the progress of the Center. This report includes an overview of the total number of K-12 students that have used the center, the total number of teachers who have undergone some type of training, the number of professionals that have taken part in a workshop at the site, the number of VCSU students involved in the Center either through research or as education majors, and research activities carried out. In addition, an expense report detailing the money received by the Center and the expenses of the Center will be prepared. This data is be collected, reviewed, and discussed by the Center Staff. A compilation of this data will be presented to major funding sources, the Vice President of Academic Affairs at VCSU, and the Advisory board. The Director will receive feedback from these entities and implement any needed changes.

## **6.0 BUDGET**

**6.1** See the attached tables for our budget. To attempt to have as smooth a transition as possible from the old grant to a new grant we will start our funding year on June 1<sup>st</sup> and end on May 31. All raises are calculated at 3% per year. Here is a brief detail of our matching funds:

- VCSU money match – Valley City State University has agreed to pay 25% of the Education Specialist position and the Lab Manager position. Over the three years of the grant this comes to \$96,191.
- Building match – VCSU is covering all costs of leasing and maintaining the Center. As a match we are using the projected value of the building on a square foot basis. This value in the Valley City area would be approximately \$10 per square foot per year (see attached letter). The building has an area of approximately 14,000 square feet, however a portion of this will be used by the VCSU Macroinvertebrate lab so we will only use 9,000 sq. ft. of the square footage for our match. Calculating 9,000 sq. ft. times \$10 per sq. ft. gives us a match of \$90,000 per year for a total of \$450,000. In our budget table we only put in the amount needed to cover the 40% match, a total of \$93,282.
- VCSU inkind salary match – This includes the 25% salary inkind for Dr. DeLorme's salary. His contract at VCSU calls for 25% commitment to Prairie Waters during the academic school year. We place the value at \$70,682.
- Other inkind – this is inkind matching of the expenses by the schools. For the River Watch program it is 40% of their costs and for school groups coming to the centers it is their travel cost. We are conservatively estimating this to be \$5,000 per year for a total of \$15,000.

## Budget Table for Prairie Water Education and Research Center

**Part 1 – Funding sources – The funds for this project will be used for a 17 month period of time spread over three fiscal years. One month of funding for FY 15, twelve months for FY16, and four months for FY 17.**

	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	Total
<b>FY2015 Section 319 Funds</b>	<b>\$17,992</b>	<b>\$130,977</b>	<b>\$41,031</b>	<b>\$172,727</b>
<b>State and Local match:</b>				
1) VCSU salary match	\$2,524	\$31,196	\$10,711	<b>\$44,431</b>
2) Building Match	\$6,221	\$24,884	\$16,937	<b>\$48,042</b>
3) VCSU Inkind salary match	\$0	\$22,943	\$5,251	<b>\$28,194</b>
4) Participating schools match	\$0	\$4,500	\$1,500	<b>\$ 6,000</b>
<b>Subtotals</b>	<b>\$8,745</b>	<b>\$83,523</b>	<b>\$34,399</b>	<b>\$126,667</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$26,737</b>	<b>\$214,500</b>	<b>\$75,430</b>	<b>\$316,667</b>

## Budget Table for Prairie Water Education and Research Center

**Part 2 – Funding - The funds for this project will be used for a 17 month period of time spread over three fiscal years. One month of funding for FY 15, twelve months for FY16, and four months for FY 17.**

<b>Project Objectives and Tasks</b>	<b>FY 15</b>	<b>FY 16</b>	<b>FY17</b>	<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>Cash Match</b>	<b>In Kind Match</b>	<b>319 funds</b>
<b>Objective 1: Staff facility, advertise, and assess program.</b>							
Salary/Fringe	\$18,036	\$156,109	\$42,863	\$217,008	\$44,431	\$28,194	\$144,383
Travel	\$0	\$300	\$100	\$400	0	\$0	\$400
Supplies	\$30	\$300	\$100	\$430	0	0	\$430
<b>Subtotals</b>	<b>\$18,066</b>	<b>\$156,709</b>	<b>\$43,063</b>	<b>\$217,838</b>	<b>\$44,431</b>	<b>\$28,194</b>	<b>\$145,213</b>
<b>Objective 2: Provide educational activities to approximately 2500 students a year</b>							
	\$500	\$11,000	\$4,600	\$16,100	0	\$5,000	\$11,100
	\$314	\$6,000	\$3,100	\$9,414	0	0	\$9,414
Travel							
Supplies	<b>\$814</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>	<b>\$7,700</b>	<b>\$25,514</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$20,514</b>
<b>Subtotals</b>							
<b>Objective 3: Provide Teacher training workshops each summer</b>							
	\$0	\$2,000	0	\$2,000	0	\$1,000	\$1000
	\$0	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	0	0	\$4,000
Travel							
Workshops	<b>0</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Subtotals</b>							
<b>Objective 4: Provide a site for at least one Professional workshop per year</b>							
Workshops	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Subtotals</b>							
<b>Objective 5: House the VCSU Macroinvertebrate Lab</b>							
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>10 % Administrative Costs</b>	<b>\$1,636</b>	<b>\$11,907</b>	<b>\$3,730</b>	<b>\$17,273</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$17,273</b>
<b>Building Match</b>	<b>\$6,221</b>	<b>\$24,884</b>	<b>\$16,937</b>	<b>\$48,042</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$48,042</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$26,737</b>	<b>\$214,500</b>	<b>\$75,430</b>	<b>\$316,667</b>	<b>\$44,431</b>	<b>\$82,236</b>	<b>\$172,727</b>



**ATTACHMENT 1**

**Letter of Collaboration and Support**



*A Tradition of Academic Excellence*

**Jennifer Fremstad Ryan  
Stewart**

Principal Assistant  
Principal

**Wayne Heckaman Holly  
Ripley**

Assistant Principal Assistant  
Principal

**Curt Jones**  
Activities Director

**West Fargo High  
School**

801 - 9<sup>th</sup> Street East  
West Fargo, ND 58078  
(701) 356-2050  
[www.west-fargo.k12.nd.us](http://www.west-fargo.k12.nd.us)

9/18/2014

To the governing body of 319 grants;

I am writing this letter in praise and support of Prairie Waters Education Center, Kathryn, ND. I have taught at West Fargo High School for 20 years and teach Environmental Science and Field Biology to juniors and seniors. Travelling with my students to Prairie Waters is by far the highlight of our school year. The activities we do at Prairie Waters are always designed to fulfill the class objectives. The staff is professional and creative. The knowledge base of the staff is such that any student, as well as any teacher, would learn new things from their curriculum. They will flexibly design activities that support and enhance learning objectives whenever asked.

The Kathryn site is such a hidden gem. The streams are safe and diverse enough to do a variety of investigations with any age student. The school is a great facility with a nice open labs and plenty of sinks and scopes to do what we need to do. Students can work all day and have a safe place for their materials and lunches. It is a perfect work environment.

I am writing in the hopes that the Center can continue the great work it does with kids. Without proper funding they may have to charge a per pupil fee and this would cause our district to deny this fieldtrip, as bussing is already using most of the monies. Please help support Prairie Waters and their work as we would consider it a great loss to lose this opportunity for kids.

Sincerely,

Sara Forness

Accredited by

